



Minuteman UPDATE

June 2004

Massachusetts National
Guard monthly
newsletter for members,
families, and friends

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Cpt. Hoffman Wins MacArthur Leadership Award

By Sgt. Jordan St. John

Massachusetts National Guard Public Affairs Office

Capt. Christine Hoffman of Westford, operations officer for the 79th Troop Command of the Massachusetts Army National Guard, was presented with the prestigious Gen. Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award May 26 during ceremonies at the Pentagon.

She was presented the MacArthur Leadership Award by Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, Army Chief of Staff. Hoffman was cited for her performance as commander of the 1058th Transportation Company during its Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment last year and earlier this year.

She is one of only 26 company grade officers out of the thousands in the Active Army, the National Guard and the Army Reserve to be selected for this year's leadership award.

Gen. Schoomaker reminded the award winners and those assembled for the Pentagon ceremony that this year is the 42nd anniversary of Gen. MacArthur's Duty, Honor, Country speech given at the United State Military Academy at West Point on May 24, 1962.

"General MacArthur was speaking of the type of leaders that we honor today," said Schoomaker. "We are engaged in a business of ideas, values and how we're going to move forward in our future. Because of the fine leadership demonstrated today, I am actually convinced we will prevail." Hoffman, who has been a member of the Massachusetts Army National Guard since 1988, said that she was overwhelmed with the presentation. She said that it's a tribute to the 136 members of the 1058th Transportation



Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker (left) presents the prestigious Gen. Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award to Capt. Christine Hoffman of Westford during ceremonies at the Pentagon on May 26.

Company that she had the privilege of leading during a 12-month tour in Iraq. The company returned from Iraq in April.

The MacArthur Award recognizes company grade officers in the active Army, the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard who demonstrate the ideals for which Gen. MacArthur stood—DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY. Selection is based on the officer's overall leadership performance throughout the calendar year.

104th Fighter Wing receives outstanding unit award

The 104th Fighter Wing, Massachusetts Air National Guard, Barnes Air National Guard Base has been awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor by the Air Force for its role in Operation Iraqi Freedom from Jan. 1, 2003 to May 21, 2003.

During that period, the 104th FW deployed about 500 personnel and 11 A-10 Thunderbolt II attack aircraft in theatre.

The 104th FW was the lead unit of the 387th Air Expeditionary Group attached to the 410th Air Expeditionary Wing.

The primary mission of the 410th AEW, which included the 104th, was to prevent the entry of neighboring countries into the conflict by denying battle space necessary to launch "Scud" missiles.

Other missions included operating a combat search and rescue airborne platform, as well as providing close air support for ground troops.

As part of war preparations, the 104th was one of the first A-10 aircraft units to implement the Lightning II Target Pod system, making the aircraft more combat effective.

Col. Michael R. Boulanger was commander of the 387th.

Mass. Guard Medic Wins Nursing Award

Story and Photo By: 1st Lt. Anthony Falvey,
Ambulance Platoon Leader, Baghdad, Iraq

Sometimes deciding on a career path may lead a person to 're-invent themselves,' in a quest to find a profession that truly 'feels right.'

Spc. Seth Katz, a resident of Duxbury is in the middle of such a quest.

"I gave up a career in high tech, to pursue a lifelong interest in medicine." Katz's journey lead him to enlist with the Guard, becoming a medic with A Co. 118th Medical Area Support Medical Battalion in Concord.

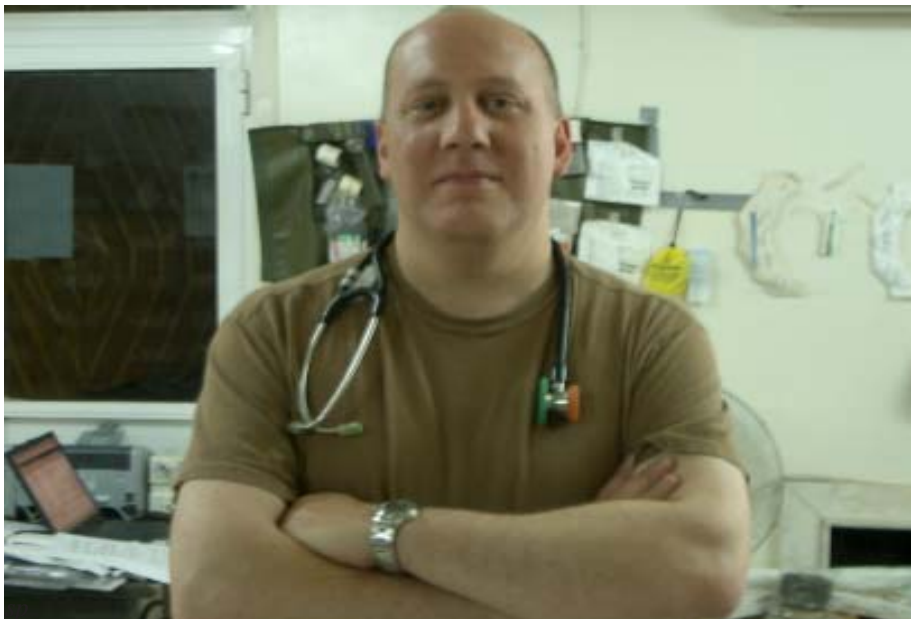
Simultaneously, he started nursing classes at the University of Massachusetts at Boston. "I wanted to become a part of the Guard because I believe the Guard's training and mission overlap with my interest in emergency medicine. Also, the Guard strongly promotes and supports education."

Presently, Katz is a vital part of an aid station at a coalition camp near Baghdad. At the aid station, Katz assists with the day to day wellness of soldiers and staff living at the camp. "Most of what we do here involves giving inoculations, treating minor illnesses and assisting with any type of medical crisis."

During the beginning of April, Katz, a member of Sigma Theta Tau (Theta Alpha Chapter), a prestigious, academic international honor society for nursing, received a surprising e-mail from the chapter's out-going president, Stephanie Devik. The e-mail had stated that Katz was the 2004 recipient of the chapter's coveted Margaret Anderson Award. "I am flattered and honored and mostly humbled to receive the Margaret Anderson Award," Katz later replied in an e-mail to Devik.

The Margaret Anderson award is a distinguished honor among the UMass Boston nursing students. Katz incorporated his talents from his high-tech experience to develop computer applications for nursing. Spc. Katz has the distinctive honor of becoming the first Massachusetts Guard member to receive the award.

Katz will continue pursuing medicine and technology. He plans to complete his nursing degree upon his return from Iraq. "Once I have accomplished this goal, depending on the needs of the Guard and my decision, I then will determine if I will perform my nursing duties as an NCO (non-commissioned officer) or as an officer," he said.



Spc. Seth Katz of Duxbury at a coalition camp aid station near Baghdad.



Tech. Sgt. Beverly K. Perriccio of Greenland, N.H. plays Taps at the D-Day memorial service. She is a member of Guard's Band of the Northeast

D-Day remembered

Joint Forces Headquarters soldiers took part on June 6 in a memorial service on the 60th anniversary of the D-Day invasion.

On June 6, 1944, Allied forces launched the largest seaborne invasion in history against Nazi-occupied Europe in northwest France.

Several Mass. Guardsman participated in the operation that became known as D-Day. Soldiers of the Mass. 26th Infantry volunteered with the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, a component of the legendary 82nd Airborne Division. Lt. Col. Richard Sullivan served as battalion commander of the 5th Ranger Battalion during the campaign. Col. Ronald A. Crews, Joint Forces Headquarters chaplain, remembered the fallen during the service. "May the sacrifice of those before us make us remember on this day, not only the debt we owe, but also the responsibility given us."



Headquarters Detachment 1st Sgt. Judith Mahoney (left) and Staff Sgt. Janine Cattret (right) pin the sergeant's rank insignia onto Kimberly Linatopi's uniform collar during a promotion ceremony on June 4.